United Nations E/C.2/2010/2/Add.22

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
20 October 2009

Original: English

Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations
2010 regular session
25 January-3 February 2010

Quadrennial reports for the period 2005-2008 submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council through the Secretary-General pursuant to resolution 1996/31*

Note by the Secretary-General

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* Reports submitted by non-governmental organizations are issued without formal editing.

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1. International Association of Applied Psychology (Special; 2005)

I. Introduction

Aims of the organization: The International Association of Applied Psychology (IAAP) is the oldest worldwide association of scholars and practitioners of the discipline of psychology. Its goal is to establish contact between those who work in this field, and to advance scientific and social development.

II. Contribution to the work of the United Nations

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities: (a) Yearly participation in the Planning and Media Committees of the annual Department of Public Information and non-governmental organization (NGO) conferences held in September in New York, Paris and Mexico City; co-moderators and discussants at Midday Workshops; co-founding and leading the "Student Journalism Program"; (b) Attended and reported on weekly Department of Public Information briefings, New York; (c) Met with United Nations agencies and missions to ensure the inclusion of psychosocial and organizational issues in United Nations affairs; (d) Represented at the Committee on Mental Health and the International Day of Older Persons, New York; (e) Participated in the Planning Committee and co-chaired panels for the Annual Psychology Day at the United Nations (2007 and 2008, New York); (f) May and November 2006, New York: conducted a survey (with the pro bono support of Sirota Survey Intelligence™) of NGO representatives about the working relationship between the United Nations and NGO representatives (sponsored by the United Nations NGO/Department of Public Information Executive Committee and supported by the Department of Public Information). Presented results at day-long Department of Public Information communications workshop in November 2006 entitled "Surveying for change"; (g) Hosted an award-winning public service television programme called United Nations Profiles, interviewing United Nations NGO members; (h) 28 June 2007, New York: met with the United States Mission liaison with the Economic and Social Council to discuss applying organizational psychology to the work of Council staff; (i) 18 October 2007 and 13 December 2007, New York: met with NGO/Department of Public Information Executive Committee members to discuss a follow-up survey of NGO representatives; (j) April 2008: joined the Global Task Force on Organizational Psychology for Poverty Reduction; (k) Board Member of the Committee on Mental Health and also the Psychosocial Director for the NGO "US Doctors for Africa", collaborating with United Nations agencies; (l) Recording Secretary, Committee on Ageing; will be co-chair for the workgroup on trauma for the Committee on Mental Health. Two members-at-large of the Executive Committee of the Committee on Mental Health. Member, subcommittee on "A Convention for the Rights of Older Persons"; member, UNICEF Committee on Violence against Children.

Statements: (a) Contributed to and co-sponsored statement submitted to former Secretary-General Kofi Annan by psychologists in response to "In Greater Freedom" (September 2005); (b) sponsored statement (with other NGOs) for the Commission on the Status of Women about the importance of mental health in considering general health issues (2006); (c) statement on "The role of psychology in full employment and decent work for all" in connection with the Economic and

Social Council substantive session of July 2006 (21 April 2006); (d) Signed statement on behalf of IAAP on mental health, presented at the fifty-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women; (e) signed statements on the relationship between NGOs and the United Nations; disability rights; and social development and full employment based on World Health Organization issues (2007);

Publications: United Nations Headquarters: (a) Throughout 2008, participated in a working group on attitude change for the Climate Caucus initiative, which produced a report presented to the United Nations Secretary-General (in early 2009); www.climatecaucus.net; (b) 8 January 2008, conducted an interview with the Executive Director of the United Nations Global Compact Office which was published in *The Industrial Psychologist*, April 2008; (c) 5 March 2008, conducted an interview with the then head of the New York office of the International Labour Organization which was published in the *IAAP Bulletin*, October 2008; (d) published article, "Pope Benedict at the United Nations makes the ordinary feel extraordinary" posted 19 April 2008; (e) Published "Organizational psychology and poverty reduction: 'where supply meets demand'", *Journal of Organizational Behaviour*, (2008); (f) submitted article, "How organizational psychology can and should contribute to poverty reduction" to the *Journal of Economic Psychology* (December 2008).

Conferences: (a) IAAP Congress, Athens, keynote speaker: the then Under Secretary-General for Communications at the United Nations and head of the Department of Public Information. Conducted a round table for IAAP members interested in IAAP activities at the United Nations (July 2006); (b) attended meeting of Governments on "The Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction" and moderated a panel, "Integration of mental health and psychosocial issues into disaster risk reduction and the Hyogo Framework" with United Nations staff and Geneva representatives (May 2007, Geneva); (c) participated in the Non-Governmental Organization Committee on Mental Health meeting on "Reflections on the 61st annual DPI/NGO conference reaffirming human rights for all: the Universal Declaration at 60" (September 2008, Paris); (d) attended conference of the World Council of Psychotherapy and presented several workshops there (October 2008, Beijing); (e) poster session on "The role of decent work in improving health" at "Achieving global goals through innovation" conference (April 2009, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, United States);

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in field and/or at Headquarters: 2006: June, Geneva: participated in the Civil Society Forum to the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council on the theme "Creating an environment at the national and international levels conducive to generating full and productive employment and decent work for all, and its impact on sustainable development"; **2007**: 16 November, New York: met with United Nations Population Fund staff to discuss submitting a proposal for their Global Staff Survey. **2008**: (a) 17 July, Geneva Centre for Security Policy: Geneva IAAP representatives organized an international conference on the food crisis with the group of least developed country members of the World Trade Organization (WTO), entitled "WTO rules and food crisis in the least developed countries"; (b) October, New York: met with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) staff to discuss how organizational psychology could benefit UNDP staff in their work; (c) Vienna IAAP representative participated in the development by the Vienna NGO Committee on Narcotic Drugs of the "Beyond 2008 declaration", including

companion resolutions in preparation for the high-level segment of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in 2009.

Activities in support of global principles: (a) October 2006: paper on "Business success as a world change agent" accepted for a virtual global presentation at the forum "Business as an agent of world benefit: management knowledge leading positive change"; (b) August 2008: secured membership of the Global Compact for Sirota Survey Intelligence, the employer of two IAAP representatives.

2. International Association of Democratic Lawyers (Special; 1969)

I. Introduction

Aims of the organization: The aims of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers (IADL), a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council and represented at UNESCO and UNICEF are to: (a) work together to achieve the aims set out in the Charter of the United Nations; (b) facilitate contact and exchange of views between and among lawyers and lawyers' associations of all countries to foster understanding and goodwill among them; (c) ensure common action by lawyers; (d) in the realm of law, study and practice the principles of democracy to encourage the maintenance of peace and cooperation among nations; (e) restore, defend and develop democratic rights and liberties in legislation and in practice; (f) defend and promote human and peoples' rights; (g) promote the preservation of ecology and healthy environments; (h) struggle for strict adherence to the rule of law and the independence of the judiciary and the legal profession; and (i) defend all peoples' rights to development and for conditions of economic equality and the enjoyment of the fruits of scientific progress and natural resources.

IADL members committed to the mission set forth above include national affiliated organizations of lawyers, legal educators and juridical professionals in more than 90 countries. Individual lawyers, jurists, legal educators and law students who are not members of national affiliates in any State are also included in our membership.

II. Contribution to the work of the United Nations

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities: The following events were attended by members of IADL: **2005**: (a) Co-sponsored workshop on depleted uranium with the Campaign for Abolition of Depleted Uranium Japan and the Japan International Volunteer Center (3 May, New York); (b) International Law Weekend at the Association of the Bar, City of New York (20-22 October, New York); (c) Participated in People's Action Week at the World Trade Organization's sixth annual Ministerial Conference (8-17 December, Hong Kong, China). **2006**: (a) Attended and delivered oral statement at the Arab Lawyers Union Conference (January, Damascus); (b) Human Rights Commission (March/April, Geneva); (c) Co-sponsored emergency conference with Arab Lawyers Union on "The deteriorating situation in the Middle East and international law" (26-27 August, Paris); **2007**: at United Nations Headquarters: (a) Met with Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cuba to the United Nations (January); (b) Attended briefing of International Criminal Court Coalition (January); (c) Met with Executive Director of Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice

(1 February); at United Nations Office at Geneva (d) Human Rights Council, fourth session (March/April). **2008**: (a) Human Rights Council, eighth session (June, Geneva); (b) Sponsored an international conference on the occasion of the sixtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (December, Paris).

The following events were attended at United Nations Headquarters:

2005: (a) "State of the World's Children 2005" panel discussion (15 February, UNICEF Headquarters); (b) Panel discussion "From Mexico to Beijing and beyond: realization of the vision" (27 February); (c) International Women's Day panel "Gender equality beyond 2005" (8 March); (d) Commission on the Status of Women (February/March); (e) Review Conference on the Non-Proliferation Treaty (3 May); (f) Conference on Human Trafficking (18 October); (g) Security Council meeting on briefings from anti-terrorism committees (26 October); (h) Department of Public Information Non-Governmental Organization Section meeting "Critical perspectives in combating genocide" (21 November); (i) United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime panel discussion on human trafficking (2 December); (j) United Nations General Assembly, Third Committee sessions (November/December); (k) Department of Public Information/NGO communications workshop on "Peace and security" (8 December); (l) United Nations Human Rights Day event on the Human Rights Council (9 December).

2006: (a) Organizational session of the Conference of NGOs (19 January); (b) Assembly of States Parties to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (26-27 January); (c) Commission on the Status of Women (February/March); (d) Attended informal consultation on draft resolution on women, the girl child and HIV/AIDS (7 March); (e) Human Rights Committee (29-30 March); (f) provided logistical support and technical assistance to IADL affiliate National Lawyers Guild for a public forum on the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (23 March); (g) Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (26 May); (h) Special session of the General Assembly on AIDS (31 May-1 June).

2007: (a) Met with representative of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cuba (9 January); (b) Resumed session of the Assembly of States Parties Working Group on Aggression (January/February); (c) Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (May/June).

2008: (a) Commission on the Status of Women (February/March); (b) Attended sessions of the Human Rights Committee, 92nd Session (March/April).

As discussed in this quadrennial report, since its founding, the IADL has based its activities, legal strategies and international campaigns on the principles of the Charter of the United Nations. We support all United Nations initiatives and disseminate information about United Nations activities to our affiliates and members throughout the world. The IADL pledges its consistent and unqualified support of the United Nations as the only hope for world peace and the ultimate eventual achievement of the economic, social and legal rights of all the peoples of the world.

3. Netherlands Association of Women's Interests, Women's Work and Equal Citizenship (Special; 2001)

I. Introduction

The Netherlands Association of Women's Interests, Women's Work and Equal Citizenship (Vrouwenbelangen) was founded in 1894 as an association for women's suffrage. Today it is an advocacy organization for full participation of women in all fields of society, with an emphasis on politics, and for women's human rights. Vrouwenbelangen is affiliated with the International Alliance of Women (IAW). Vrouwenbelangen publishes a quarterly on women's rights, writes and supports petitions on women's rights nationally and internationally, and holds meetings to that effect. It is an organization of volunteers which does not receive support from the Government.

In 2005 our organization was involved in a lawsuit against the State and the SGP, a small Protestant political party that would not admit women as members and consequently denied women of their religion the right to be elected. The case was won in court, and the judges decided that the State should deny its subsidy to this party. Subsequently, the party opened its membership to women, but denied them the right to be candidates for political functions. Both the State and the party appealed the judgment, and so did Vrouwenbelangen, because our case against the party was not heard. We are in the middle of the appeals procedure.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Vrouwenbelangen campaigned for more women in politics and for women's human rights. The President and the representative to the United Nations took part in the work of the Commission on the Status of Women in 2005, 2006 and 2007. The editor of the International Newsletter attended the hearings on the Millennium Development Goals in 2006. Vrouwenbelangen strongly advocated including the actions of the Beijing Platform in the pursuit of the Millennium Development Goals. The National Board wrote a well documented letter to the Prime Minister of the Netherlands, advocating that the Netherlands sign the anti-trafficking treaty of the Council of Europe. The treaty was indeed signed, but has not yet been ratified by the Netherlands, so we are working on that goal. Many members participated in the Dutch non-governmental organization Beijing+10 campaign and the National Board decided to send the result, an Agenda for the Future, to the Dutch political parties to include in their programmes for the elections in November 2006. Vrouwenbelangen supported the findings of the Emancipation Auditing Committee, instituted by the Government of the Netherlands, by sending out a letter about anchoring gender mainstreaming in the policies of all ministries. In 2007 the National Board sent a letter to the new Minister of Emancipation of the Netherlands, whose main task is education and culture, pleading strong leadership in emancipation. Vrouwenbelangen favours a think tank on emancipation policy that can feed authorities with new insights, especially where article 5 (a) of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women is concerned. We feel that prejudices and stereotypes are very harmful to women and girls. Our representative to the United Nations, and IAW representative to the Council of Europe, Anje Wiersinga MD, was instrumental in drawing attention to the right of women in Kosovo to participate in conflict resolution.

Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals: Implicitly our organization included the Millennium Development Goals in all our work. **Goal 2. Achieve universal primary education**: In the context of IAW, Vrouwenbelangen supported free education and girls' participation in education. Although it was in 2009, our initiative, supported by IAW and many other non-governmental organizations, to petition the Government of Pakistan and the Secretary-General of the United Nations on the human right of girls in the Swat valley to education was mentioned during the session of the Commission on the Status of Women in New York. **Goal 3. Promote gender equality and empower women**: Vrouwenbelangen integrated the work on the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Beijing Programme of Action with our support of the Millennium Development Goals. The President, the representative to the United Nations and several of our members regularly attended the briefing and debriefing meetings our Government organized around the sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women. **Goal 4. Reduce child mortality**: We fully supported our Government in its endeavours to combat perinatal mortality of babies and mothers.

Other activities: Vrouwenbelangen used its quarterly journal to write about women's history and the future of women's rights, and about national and international matters of concern. The magazine featured a column by a Member of the Parliament of the Netherlands, sometimes a Government Minister. Given the fact that there are many immigrants in the Netherlands, Vrouwenbelangen devoted an issue to social cohesion in 2007.

Over the years, our organization supported a campaign for reproductive rights in the Netherlands. On the whole, our organization supported the Government of the Netherlands in upholding women's reproductive rights, which are not recognized by some members of the European Union. The President of the organization participated in a symposium of a new women's initiative, "I'm strong enough", in Kiev in May 2008, to explain the history of Dutch women's rights, especially regarding divorce law, and to highlight the disastrous influence of corruption on women.

4. Sisters of Charity Federation (Special; 2001)

I. Introduction

Aims of the Organization: The Sisters of Charity Federation is an international federation of organizations formed in 1947 to strengthen the bond of union among congregations of women religious in the Charity tradition in order to support and promote their work with those living in poverty. The Federation endeavours to alleviate and eliminate all forms of poverty through advocacy, witness, systemic change and direct service. The 16 member organizations also work towards the establishment of peace, human rights, sustainable development, social and economic development, as well as intercultural and inter-religious understanding. The Federation currently has members in 38 states in the United States, 9 Canadian provinces and 25 other countries. The affiliation provides a means of collaboration through which we work to bring about systemic and structural change so as to eliminate the root causes of poverty. Since our affiliation was granted special status,

there have been no changes in our sources of funding. Two of our member organizations have merged: the Vincentian Sisters of Pittsburgh have joined the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth. The title of the federation was officially changed from the Elizabeth Seton Federation to the Sisters of Charity Federation in July 2008 at the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council. The purpose, membership and activities of the organization remained the same.

Since our affiliation with the Economic and Social Council, the members of the Federation continue to improve their awareness of, and support for, the goals and activities of the United Nations. The Federation maintains a full-time representative and an administrative assistant in New York. In addition, two members of the organization in the New York area are active on various non-governmental organization committees. The main representative is responsible for disseminating information about the United Nations and encouraging members' participation in United Nations activities and global advocacy. Individual members are responsible for reporting on best practices and advising the non-governmental organization New York office of continuing needs in their areas of expertise and work, and advocating, at least monthly, concerning United Nations issues affecting those living in poverty.

II. Contribution to the work of the United Nations

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities: The Federation participated at the following: (a) **Commission for Social Development**: The representative is an active member of the NGO Committee on Social Development — a committee of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations. The representative and other Federation members attended the session of the NGO Committee on Social Development held at United Nations Headquarters, in February 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008. The representative submitted written statements and collaborated with others on oral statements presented at the Commission. The Federation also co-sponsored a side event at the Commission ("Education and work: a collaborative partnership", 11 February 2008). The Federation was involved in extensive work for poverty eradication, health and social services, particularly in developing countries, and funds anti-poverty as well as disaster relief projects. The NGO representative is also a member of the NGO Subcommittee on Poverty Eradication; (b) **Commission on the Status of Women** at United Nations Headquarters, in February/March 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008, where written statements were submitted. The Federation staffs and finances numerous projects for the advancement of women in health, education and development; (c) **Commission for Sustainable Development** at United Nations Headquarters in April 2005 and May 2008. The Federation is a member of the Non-Governmental Organization Committee and initiated, staffed and financed projects for sustainable and environmental development; (d) **Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues** in New York in May 2005 and 2007; (e) **Financing for Development Committee**: The Federation has been active through collaboration in written and oral statements to the Committee and by attendance at the following events in New York: high-level dialogue in April 2005; second High-level Dialogue in June 2005; World Summit in September 2005; high-level meeting on 24 April 2006 and 16 April 2007; informal hearings of civil society on 22 October 2007; third High-level Dialogue on 23-25 October 2007; Review Sessions on Monterrey Consensus on 14-15 February 2008, 10-12 March 2008, 15-16 April 2008, 19-20 May 2008; special high-level

meeting with Bretton Woods institutions on 14 April 2008; informal consultation on draft outcome of Doha on 16 June 2008; informal consultations on draft outcome of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus in September 2008. The Federation chaired the task force that organized the Civil Society Forum held in New York on 15 April 2007; (f) **Economic and Social Council high-level segments**: Through collaboration with the NGO Committee on Social Development, the organization contributed in statements and discussions. A Federation representative attended high-level dialogues in New York: "Climate change" on 9 September 2007, "Religion and culture" on 4 October 2007 and "A world fit for children" on 12 December 2007; (g) **Commission on Human Rights**: A Federation representative attended the Commission on Human Rights in Geneva, in March/April 2005.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

The organization is affiliated with the Department of Public Information. The Federation was represented at the annual conference held at United Nations Headquarters in September 2005, 2006 and 2007, and at the conference in Paris, in September 2008. The NGO representative and associates attend the weekly Department of Public Information briefings and communications workshops. Through newsletters, monthly action alerts, workshops and other mailings, the NGO representative distributed materials regarding the United Nations, the Millennium Development Goals, financing for development, human rights and other relevant information about issues at the United Nations.

Activities in support of global principles: Since 2005 the organization has worked to alleviate poverty through financial support, initiating projects and/or providing personnel in the following geographic regions: Central America and the Caribbean, Africa, Asia, South America and inner city areas in major cities throughout the United States and Canada. **Activities include**: (a) Financial support and administrative oversight for water and sanitation projects in Peru, the Dominican Republic, Haiti, India and Nepal ($600,000); (b) Financial support and staffing for microfinancing programmes for women in Nigeria, Malawi, Haiti, El Salvador, Mexico, Nicaragua, and India ($65,000); (c) Providing scholarships to the Coady Institute in Antigonish, Canada (a centre for teaching development and microfinancing skills) for people from developing countries; (d) Investing $30,000 in Zambia for a widows/orphans AIDS skills empowerment centre to expand and initiate business skills training and communication services; (e) Participating in a new initiative on health and education in the Sudan ($300,000); (f) Initiating a social work training programme in Bihar, India which will allow the young to have professional skills and to be employed in the social action/work field as middle-level workers; (g) Providing transitional housing at several sites for those living in poverty in the United States; (h) Opening a peace centre in Guatemala to facilitate reconciliation, healing of memories, and learning peacemaking alternatives; (i) Initiating a computer-based literacy education programme for women and children in Guatemala that networks with 14 craft cooperatives and works in conjunction with a technology firm for technical support; (j) Providing funding for literacy education in Haiti ($15,000); (k) Investing $20,000 in TransFair, A United States certifier of fair trade goods worldwide; (l) Providing financial support for educational programmes in the United Republic of Tanzania and Ghana;

(m) Sponsoring personnel and finances for direct service projects with the homeless in Canada and the United States; (n) Providing university scholarships for single mothers in Canada; (o) Providing donations for disaster relief in Indonesia, Peru, Bangladesh, China, Myanmar and the United States ($5,000-$100,000); (p) Providing financial support for Iraqi women and an Iraqi refugees' trauma project ($3,500).

5. Society to Support Children Suffering from Cancer (Special; 2001)

I. Introduction

Aims of the organization: The Society to Support Children Suffering from Cancer (MAHAK) was set up as a non-profit, non-governmental organization in Tehran and registered under number 5657 in 1991. MAHAK has been active helping children with cancer and their families and supporting more than 13,000 cancer-stricken children including Iraqi and Afghan refugee children with cancer. The organization is involved in the fields of medical treatment, research, prevention, remedial and hospital services and welfare. The MAHAK charity organization is entirely dependent on public donations and fund-raising. MAHAK receives donations from the International Society for Children with Cancer, which is an affiliate of MAHAK. The International Society for Children with Cancer is a non-profit organization established in the United States and helps provide financial assistance for indigent children suffering from cancer and their families in developing countries. There is also an office of social work in the city of Shiraz which has become active in helping children with cancer in the province of Fars, Islamic Republic of Iran, since 2007. The total number of members of MAHAK at present stands at 35,418 in Iran and over 100 are residents in North America and Western European countries.

MAHAK has two major projects to meet its growing expenses: (a) The Child Sponsorship Program: donors can sponsor a child by paying an annual sum of $1,500 for each child's medical treatment and other expenses, which can be paid at the rate of $150 monthly; (b) At present, the daily running costs of the MAHAK hospital are at least $3,000 and donors can pledge and pay for one or more days of operation of the hospital in order to provide the children with treatment, good health, joy, play and education.

Significant changes in the organization: The organizational chart of MAHAK has radically changed. At present there are six departments: (a) Volunteer Department: volunteers' tasks and coordination are defined for the activities of each department and section; (b) Hospital: the Pediatric Cancer Hospital with related treatment facilities; (c) Administration and Financial Department: since transparency of the system is a priority, the Administration and Financial Department is equipped with the latest software systems for managing the organization's financial affairs; (d) Fundraising Department: to collect cash and non-cash donations; (e) Support Services Department: all covered children enjoy the organization's financial, social, psychological and welfare services with the support of this section; (f) Human Resources Department: reflecting the important role of human resources in MAHAK, this new department became operational in 2008 to recruit, train and support staff. All these sections are monitored by the Board of Trustees, the Hospital

Supervisor Council, the Board of Directors, the Manager Director, the Legal Inspector and Quality Control.

II. Contribution to the work of the United Nations

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities: MAHAK is directly involved in the Millennium Development Goals 4 (Reduce child mortality) and 1 (Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger) in accordance with organization's charter. The MAHAK International Relations Section is also active in the National Committee and the Millennium Development Goals meetings organized by the Department of Public Information in Tehran.

2005: 16 December: the rehabilitation centre was set up for children with cancer after bone marrow transplant, accompanied by their parents; 1,534 children were accommodated in this centre during the period 2006-2008.

2006: 29-31 October: holding of the First International Congress of Childhood Cancer, Tehran.

2007: (a) 15 June: opening of MAHAK Pediatric Cancer Hospital and Research Centre, Tehran; (b) 13 March: entering into a reciprocal contract with the Gustave Roussy Institute for research on registering cancer cases in Tehran and planning and studying geographically scattered children with cancer; (c) 15 June: inauguration of the MAHAK Pediatric Cancer Hospital and Research Centre in the north-east of Tehran. It is an 18,000 square metre fully equipped hospital complex and can accommodate up to 120 children. Other facilities are offered, such as a clinic, a chemotherapy laboratory, a genetics laboratory, a radiotherapy section, a physiotherapy ward, a hydrotherapy section, operation rooms, magnetic resonance imaging, radiology, an intensive care unit, a library, children's playrooms, a restaurant and an auditorium; (d) 29 November: gaining the non-governmental organization benchmarking certificate from the Société Général de Surveillance, the first non-governmental organization in the Middle East to do so. The award is only given to non-governmental organizations which meet the highest international standards in nine areas: board of trustees, strategies, honest management, communications, human resources, allocations and control of financial resources, executive operations, operational results and continuity of improvement.

2008: 17-18 May: workshop in Tehran, investigating the damage caused by late treatment of cancer based on a joint programme with the Gustave Roussy Institute, Paris; (b) 7-8 May: congress in Tehran, about clinical and biological research on leukaemia, in conjunction with professors from the University of Milan-Bicocca, Italy.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters: MAHAK participated in the following international meetings: (a) Annual Conference of the International Confederation for Childhood Cancer Parent Organizations, October 2008 in Berlin. The aim was to give Iranian parents' views on how to control the stress of a child with cancer; (b) Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) annual consultations with non-governmental organizations September 2007 in Geneva. The MAHAK representative attended and lobbied concerning the situation of refugee children with cancer in Iran; (c) Fifty-eighth annual Department of Public Information/ Non-Governmental Organization Conference, September 2005 in New York, "Voices

for Peace, Partnerships and Renewal": the MAHAK representative participated in the conference with the aim of holding discussions on matters of interest with similar non-governmental organizations; (d) Fifty-ninth annual Department of Public Information/NGO Conference, September 2006 in New York, "Effective partnership for human security and sustainable development": the MAHAK representative attended in order to exchange new ideas and information in a global context; (e) Sixtieth annual Department of Public Information/Non-Governmental Organization Conference, September 2007 in New York, "Climate change: how it impacts us all": the MAHAK representative attended the conference with a view to finding practical solutions on relevant matters; (f) Sixty-first annual Department of Public Information/Non-Governmental Organization Conference, 3-5 September 2008 in Paris, "Reaffirming human rights for all": the MAHAK representative attended to share knowledge and experience on how best to promote and contribute to the advancement of human rights around the world; (g) General Assembly of the International Union against Cancer, August 2008, Geneva, where the focus of the MAHAK representative was the latest achievements in cancer treatment in Iran.

MAHAK received a sum from UNHCR to help refugee children with cancer living outside refugee camps. At the end of each year, MAHAK delivered a comprehensive report to UNHCR and the basis of the funding for the following year was decided in an annual meeting. In late 2007, MAHAK signed a sub-agreement with UNHCR concerning financial aid for the treatment of Iraqi refugee children with cancer. During the period 2005-2008 the total number of Afghan and Iraqi refugee children under treatment was 579, while the treatment terminated children's statistics stood at 249 and 65 patients were deceased.

6. Women's Centre for Legal Aid and Counselling (Special; 2005)

I. Introduction

The Women's Centre for Legal Aid and Counselling (WCLAC) was established in Jerusalem in 1991 as a Palestinian independent non-governmental non-profit organization with the aim of contributing to the building of a democratic Palestinian society based on principles of equality and social justice between men and women. In order to achieve this aim, WCLAC develops programmes and projects conducive to crystallizing a clear Palestinian women's agenda whose terms of reference are derived from international human rights standards. The five units of WCLAC work together to implement and follow-up those programmes and projects.

Aims of the organization: The mission of the Women's Centre for Legal Aid and Counselling is to address the causes and consequences of gender-based violence within the community as well as the gender-specific effects of the Israeli occupation. To this end, WCLAC acts not only to reverse historical negligence, the negative cultural legacy and the social outlook towards Palestinian women within the community, but also to address the needs of women in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. WCLAC provides counselling and awareness-raising programmes, offers legal and social support and training, proposes bills and law amendments, and participates in the organization of advocacy and pressure campaigns locally and internationally on behalf of Palestinian women and the community. WCLAC also develops the capacity of our professional staff and builds partnerships with

organizations and bodies involved in defending women's rights both locally and worldwide.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities:

Representative/s attended the following meetings held at United Nations Headquarters:

2005: (a) 31 January, report submitted to the pre-sessional working group of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women by WCLAC entitled: "NGO alternative report on Israel's implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in the Occupied Territories"; (b) 31 January; attended and orally presented issues concerning Palestinian women to, and answered questions from, the pre-sessional working group of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women; (c) 5 July, made oral presentations on issues concerning Palestinian women during the Committee's review of Israel.

2007: (a) 31 October, presentation by the Director of WCLAC, as a member of the International Women's Commission, to a meeting organized by the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), with the United Nations Secretary-General in New York on women and security; (b) 31 October, attended as representative of the International Women's Commission, a meeting organized by UNIFEM with the Assistant Secretary-General and Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women.

Other countries: The International Women's Commission was established in July 2005, in cooperation with UNIFEM to work on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) in the Middle East. The Director of WCLAC is a founding member of the Commission and as a member of the steering committee attends three or four meetings every year.

Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

(a) Project in cooperation with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) to provide education and training to adolescents and young people about health rights, 2006-2008 (ongoing); (b) Project in cooperation with UNIFEM to empower and build the capacity of women's grassroots organizations in Jerusalem, 2007-2008 (ongoing); (c) Project in cooperation with UNIFEM to empower and build the capacity of women's grassroots organizations in the West Bank, 2007-2008 (ongoing); (d) Project in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), "*Iktidar*", to promote legal awareness and literacy through the development of a website providing women with access to information about their legal rights, 2007-2008 (ongoing); (e) Ongoing attendance by the Director of WCLAC at local monthly meetings of the International Women's Commission, established in 2005 and convened by UNIFEM; (f) the representative of WCLAC attended annual meeting for partners of UNFPA, 2006-2008; the representative gave a presentation on the implementation and progress of the WCLAC programme on adolescent health each year; (g) Cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) through participation in the

regular monthly meetings of the Protection Cluster Working Group for the Occupied Palestinian Territory; (h) Cooperation with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in the Occupied Palestinian Territory through, among other things, attendance at the Displacement Working Group meetings chaired by the Office to ensure a gender dimension to discussions and advocacy activities.

Activities in line with Millennium Development Goals: The organization contributed to the Millennium Development Goals in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Major actions undertaken were: **Goal 3. Gender Equality**: The second strategic objective of the organization is to promote positive attitudes towards women and gender issues and to change negative attitudes in society. Actions: (a) Major component of a training programme to educate and train new graduates on gender issues and gender-based violence; 200 new graduates trained between 2006 and 2008; (b) Training provided to five groups of volunteers (120 people) from civil society in five districts of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, on gender equality, gender-based violence and legal protection; (c) Capacity-building with two grass-roots women's organizations, providing training, workshops and supervision on awareness on gender issues. **Goal 5. Improve maternal health**. Actions: (a) Implemented programme about reproductive health in cooperation with five institutions, including the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and the Palestinian Ministry of Health. Trained 76 health professionals in a two-stage programme to first train and then monitor and support their work, from 2005 to 2008; (b) Creation of manual on reproductive health; 1,000 copies of the manual were distributed to UNRWA, the Ministry of Health and other local health-care providers.

Activities in support of global principles: WCLAC organized and participated in events for International Women's Day on 8 March every year. It also organized events and campaigns every year in November as part of the global campaign to combat violence against women. Many of these activities were organized in conjunction with, or had the participation of, UNIFEM.